

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/871,250
Amendment dated September 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of **July 18, 2003**

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of Claims 11-14. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention.

Claim 1, as now amended, is to a substrate cleaning system that has a system body that can be sealed and a loading/unloading booth having a substrate carry-in section in which a plurality of substrates are stocked and standby to be carried in before cleaning treatment is applied to them and a substrate carry-out section in which a plurality of substrates are stocked and standby to be carried out after cleaning treatment was applied to them. A processing booth is provided with at least one sheet-type substrate cleaning chamber in which a cleaning treatment is applied to a plurality of substrates by a plurality of cleaning solutions, and a robot booth is provided with a transport robot for transporting the substrates one by one between the processing booth and the loading/unloading booth. The respective booths are partitioned by partition walls, the loading/unloading booth and the robot booth are respectively installed in the system body, and the robot booth is sandwiched between the loading/unloading booth and the processing booth with the loading/unloading booth having openings that open to an operating space provided outside the system body. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, it is believed that Claim 1 and Claims 3-6, 8 and 9, dependent directly or indirectly therefrom, are definite and patentable over the art.

In view of the present amendment, Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9, in addition to Claims 11-14, are believed to be in condition for allowance and early action towards that end is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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